

Appl. No. 10/624,017
Docket No. P-124C2
Amdt. dated August 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed on April 24, 2007
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 23 – 36 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due. Claims 23 – 26, 29 – 33, and 35 – 36 are canceled and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute Claims 23 – 26, 29 – 33 and 35 – 36 in continuing applications. Claims 27, 28 and 34 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form. It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Office states that Claims 27, 28 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 27, 28 and 34 have been rewritten into independent form including the elements of Claim 23 from which they originally depended. Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Hill's Science Diet or Nutro Fiber Clean

Claims 23 – 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill's Science Diet or Nutro Fiber Clean. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, however, in an effort to advance prosecution, claims 23 – 25 have been canceled from the application thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the remaining claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Hill's Science Diet or Nutro Fiber Clean in view of Reinhart

Claims 23 – 26, 29 – 33 and 35 – 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill's Science Diet or Nutro Fiber Clean in view of Reinhart (US Patent No. 5,616,569). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, however, in an effort to advance prosecution, claims 23 – 26, 29 – 33 and 35 – 36 have been canceled

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thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the remaining claims.

Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the present application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendments presented herein, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 24, 2007
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